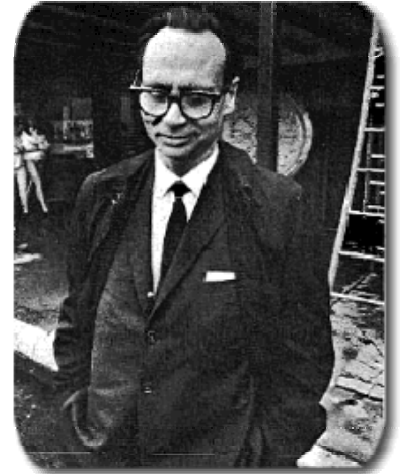


**Where Is Community Arts Development Headed?**  
Altering the Face and the Heart of America: The Gard Symposium  
September 24-25, 2010  
Lowell Center, UW-Madison Campus  
Madison, Wisconsin

**Why?**

Robert Gard once wrote, "If you try, you can indeed alter the face and the heart of America." You have seen it happen time and again. It is why you work as an artist or arts administrator or community volunteer. You know the power of community arts development to create healthy communities. You know the rich history of the field.

It is time to look forward, to envision a thriving future - for the community arts development field and for our communities. It is time to embrace the rich, rural roots of this movement, and to proclaim the power of this work in urban neighborhoods and diverse communities. It is time to come together, to dream, to think, to act.



**How will we do it?**

We'll look at the meaning of a "healthy community" from the perspectives of a sociologist, a religious leader, a political leader, a community technology specialist, and an economist. They'll share their perspectives in advance on our website in the form of white papers, and at the symposium in a 15 minute conversation. An arts activist will respond to each perspective, following each presentation. As an assembly, those convened will address what this means for our daily work in the arts, and for the training of those who will come after us. We'll have keynote presentations from Lew Feldstein (co-author of *Better Together*) and Dr. William Cronon (most recently seen in the PBS series, "The National Parks – America's Best Idea").

**Who should come? You!** Whether you're artist, planner, educator, economist, humanist, arts council director, business leader, student, community developer, human services specialist – we need your voice in this conversation.

**Why Wisconsin?**

For a century, Wisconsin has boasted a rich history of community arts development – a term whose meaning has evolved with the decades. It has signified the movement that resulted in thousands of Wisconsin people writing, painting, creating dance and music; the movement to create community arts councils; the movement to infuse the arts into community design, healthcare, youth-at-risk programming, and more. Wisconsin is the place where Robert Gard, a man whose career in community arts development spanned each of these movements, did his most important work. In turn, these movements – national in scope - have played a vital role in the health of our communities.

So it's fitting that in Wisconsin we ask, "What's next? Can we envision the next phase of this work, bringing together urban planning, architecture, art, design, political engagement, economic development, recreation, etc. into a greater, holistic whole?" Can we come to a better understanding of the terms "healthy community" and "community-building"?

This symposium will start this process and explore "what's next?" for community arts development.

**Who's producing this?** The Wisconsin Arts Board and the Robert E. Gard Wisconsin Idea Foundation are the symposium's producers. The Department of Liberal Studies & the Arts and the UW Foundation provided crucial logistical support.

**What does it cost?** \$50 (includes continental breakfasts and lunches each day)

**Where can I stay?** There are several housing options. **IMPORTANT:** because there is a UW-Madison Badgers football game that weekend, the hotels have much earlier-than-usual cutoff dates. Go to [artsboard.wisconsin.gov](http://artsboard.wisconsin.gov) for hotel options and reserve your room soon!

**Who are the speakers?**

**Rabbi Jonathan Biatch**, Rabbi, Temple Beth El in Madison, Wisconsin; **Tom Borrup**, Principal, Creative Community Builders in Minneapolis; **Dr. Jerry Hembd**, professor of economics at the University of Wisconsin-Superior; **Ra Joy**, Executive Director of Arts Illinois; **the Honorable Barbara Lawton**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Wisconsin, and Chair of the Wisconsin Arts Board; **Mitch Menchaca**, Director of Local Arts Agency Services, Americans for the Arts in Washington, DC.; **Dr. Stephanie Robert**, professor of social work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; **Dr. Randy Stoecker**, professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; **Andrew Taylor**, Director of the Bolz Center for Arts Administration at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; **George Tzougros**, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Arts Board; **Roseann Weiss**, Director of Community Art Programs at the Regional Arts Council in St. Louis; and **Naj Wykoff**, founder of the Arts & Healing Retreat in New York state.

**What's the agenda? How can I register?** Go to <http://artsboard.wisconsin.gov>.

**Anything else I should know?** During the symposium, the University of Wisconsin Foundation will dedicate the Robert E. Gard Storyteller's Circle on the University of Wisconsin campus. If you have questions about the symposium, please contact Maryo Ewell at (970) 641-3570 or [maryo@gard-sibley.org](mailto:maryo@gard-sibley.org).

**Watch this site!** During the summer, short papers will be posted to help you start your thinking. We'll link to short podcasts with some of our presenters. Afterwards, we'll link to podcasts of the presentations and a blog so that together we can continue the work that we begin.

*This Symposium is made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts' American Masterpieces program.*

